

XYSTROPUS CALIFORNICUS (HORN), A QUESTIONABLE
MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES FAUNA
(COLEOPTERA, ALLECULIDAE)

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The species of *Xystropus* Solier are brilliantly metallic beetles, often golden-green to cupreous in coloration, and are unusually conspicuous when compared to the usual North American alleculid fauna. The only species of this genus ever recorded from the United States is briefly discussed below

Xystropus californicus Horn

Prostenus californicus Horn 1868: 138.

Xystropus californicus: Champion 1888: 470.

Xystropus fulgidus Mäklin 1875: 680.—Champion 1888: 464.

In addition to the conspicuous coloration, typical of the genus, *Xystropus californicus* (Horn) also has unusually coarse, very uneven punctation on the head and thorax. No other form of alleculid ever recorded from north of Mexico has this combination of characters.

This species was described by Horn on the basis of two specimens that were sent to him from Martinez, California. Horn himself expressed doubt as to whether they should be considered a part of the United States fauna. Champion (1888, p. 464) stated that the insect is very abundant in Panama, and on p. 570 he repeated Horn's suspicion in regard to the California record. He then went on to state that the species was not known to him from north of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Similar doubts were later expressed by Casey (1891) and Leng (1916).

Since 1961 the present writer has had the opportunity to examine thousands of alleculids from all over western United States, and it seems that almost a century of collecting has failed to affirm the occurrence of this conspicuous and beautifully colored beetle in California. It seems impossible that it could have escaped detection for so long. In view of this, the species should not be considered a member of the United States fauna, and should be dropped from lists and catalogs.

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